

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 03450 142015Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-06 INR-07 NSAE-00  
AID-05 /047 W

-----099477 150331Z /65

R 131539Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6197  
INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSON  
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 3450

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: UNESCO, OVIP  
SUBJ: REACTION TO GUERRA-MONDRAGON VISIT: PROPOSED CONFERENCE  
ON AFRICAN ORIGINS

REF: STATE 183829

1. SEPTEMBER 9-11 VISIT OF US NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GABRIEL GUERRA-MONDRAGON AND PROPOSAL FOR  
CARIBBEAN-LATIN AMERICAN-U.S. CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN ORIGINS  
WERE ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED BY GOH, HAITIAN UNESCO  
COMMISSION, AND WRITERS, INTELLECTUALS, HISTORIANS AND  
ETHNOLOGISTS. SPEAKING FOR ALL, EDUCATION MINISTER DR.  
RAOUL PIERRE-LOUIS SAID HAITI IS INTERESTED IN AND SUPPORTS  
PROJECT AND WOULD BE HONORED TO HOST 1978 PRELIMINARY CON-  
FERENCE.

2. HAITIANS UNANIMOUS IN CONVICTION HAITI WOULD BE BEST SITE  
FOR PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE BECAUSE: A) IT IS WORLD'S FIRST  
BLACK REPUBLIC; B) IT HAS PRESERVED AFRICAN TRADITIONS  
AND VALUES MORE THAN ANY OTHER AMERICAN NATION; C) HAITI  
OFFERS ABUNDANT RESEARCH AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES WHICH WOULD  
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SERVE AS MODEL/EXAMPLE FOR OTHER COUNTRIES; D) MANY HAITIAN  
EXPERTS HAVE VAST EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA  
AND IN ADDITION TO FRENCH AND CREOLE SPEAK SPANISH AND  
ENGLISH; E) HAITI IS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED. HAITIANS ALSO  
POINTED OUT LONG-STANDING CULTURAL TIES TO VARIOUS AFRICAN  
COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY SENEGAL, AND BOND THAT HAS EXISTED  
BETWEEN AFRICAN AND HAITIAN NEGRITUDE POETS. HAITIANS AWAIT

CONCLUSIONS OF THIS FIRST VISIT AND FRENCH VERSION OF PROJECT PROPOSAL. HISTORIAN HENOCK TROUILLOT OFFERED TO FACILITATE HIS EXTENSIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR CONFERENCE USE.

3. VISIT WAS WELL PUBLICIZED, WITH ALL MAJOR RADIO STATIONS AND NEWSPAPERS USING USIS RELEASE. OFFICIAL RADIO NATIONALE REQUESTED AND OBTAINED 30-MINUTE SPANISH LANGUAGE INTERVIEW WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. IN ADDITIONAL TO MEETINGS WITH EDUCATION MINISTER, GUERRA-MONDRAGON MET WITH MEMBERS OF HAITIAN UNESCO COMMISSION, OTHER APPROPRIATE LEADERS, AND VISITED NATIONAL MUSEUM, MUSEUM OF HAITIAN ART AND LOCAL POINTS OF INTEREST.  
JONES

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009